

6 July 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Assistant Director, Research and Reports

SUBJECT: Comments on Inspector General's Survey of the
Office of Research and Reports, DDI

After reading the Inspector General's Survey report of ORR, I would like to bring to your attention a few specific points which you may wish to forward to Paul Borel. As you may note, the points raised principally have to do with correcting misunderstandings or misinterpretations.

1. The main weakness of the Survey is the partial picture it presents of the GMA research program. Mention is made of operations support and the Collation Project, and the report discusses at length two current projects related to operations support. This, however, hardly describes the GMA research program. The report ignores the fields of policy support, scientific-intelligence support, political-economic support, geodesy and gravimetry, and Antarctica. Considering that there is no reference, either, to the philosophy, problems, or goals of geographic research, the reader can have little idea of the actual scope and character of the activity.

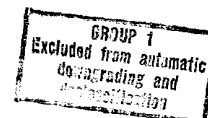
2. I am concerned at the report's overemphasis on the operations-support component of the Geography Division work. One loses sight of the fact that both the magnitude and the individual focus of operations-support projects, like others, change constantly. Over the long term, there has been an increase in DDP use of geographic research, but this has not signified any lessening in policy support, for instance. As a service function, D/SG applies its efforts where pressure is the greatest, and the program changes frequently.

3. I question the report's assessment of the MIS, [redacted] The author appears not to have grasped the different purposes of these publications.

4. The report dwells at length on the erosion of KRA's research base but has nothing to say about the problem of the GMA research base. Our problem is at least as troublesome and has been with us longer. We have repeatedly recorded, since 1959, the erosion of the geographic intelligence research base and the inadequacy of our maintenance inputs. Coping with relentless overload and rapid enlargement

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of world areas on which quick responsiveness is needed constitutes the main management task in both the Geography and Cartography Divisions. We somehow failed to get this point across to the author of the report.

5. In many instances, "ONR" has been used when the reference is to the Economic Research Area only. Entire paragraph 10 on page 5, for example, pertains to the ERA, not to all of ONR; actually, the attrition rate for professional personnel in the Geographic Research Area is exceptionally low. This paragraph should begin "The Economic Research Area of ONR," and the "ONR" in line 4 should be changed to "ERA." This incorrect use of "ONR" as a synonym for "ERA" is common throughout much of the report.

6. The report implies (as on page 2) that ONR may choose, or not, to continue policy support. Isn't policy support a mandatory function of the Office?

7. The Collation Project is, of course, not a program in support of NPIC as stated on page 4, paragraph 7. The report mistakes NPIC use of and role in the Collation Project. In addition, we do not expect this project to terminate in the next few years.

8. The statement "We have raised some question concerning the extent of certain types of support for the DD/P..." on page 4, paragraph 7, is confusing since the body of the report raises a query only about

9. The composition of the Policy Support Group as stated on page 17, paragraph 3, lines 7-11 is either incorrect or incomplete. The ERA also has representation in this group. Since this statement appears in the discussion of ERA activities, perhaps it was intentional that only ERA representation was included. If so, the sentence should be reworded as follows: "ERA representation in the Policy Support Group comprises ERA division chiefs..."

10. Delete "large-scale" on page 49, paragraph 2, line 4. The maps of the Collation Project are not all at large scale. Two of the three series are at 1:250,000 (medium scale), and the other is at 1:50,000 (large scale).

11. I am assuming that Recommendation No. 12, page 72 is intended to apply only to the printing of publications and not to the reproduction of maps. It would not be practicable for a Publications Priorities Officer to have control over priorities or in any way influence the already well-established D/GC-P&D channels for reproducing cartographic products that are unrelated to ONR publications.